

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /131 W

----- 065683

R 181539Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6934

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR (ALBERTO J. VIGNES)

SUBJECT: POSITION OF FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES

REF: A) BA-4426; B) BA-4286

1. SUMMARY: WHILE AS INDICATED IN REF A, VIGNES-GELBARD STRUGGLE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN EVENTS OF JUNE 12, RUMORS CONCERNING VIGNES' EVENTUAL REPLACEMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE. EMBASSY CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT VIGNES IS IN FACT ON THE WAY OUT IN THE NEAR TERM. NONETHELESS, HE DOES HAVE HIS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH AT SOME POINT MAY LEAD TO HIS OUSTER. END SUMMARY.

2. RUMORS SUGGESTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES WOULD BE REPLACED WERE GIVEN NEW IMPETUS BY RETURN FROM SPAIN OF AMBASSADOR JOSE CAMPANO MARTINEZ, WHO WAS GIVEN EXTRAORDINARY RECEPTION AND WAS IMMEDIATELY TOUTED BY LA OPINION AS PERON'S CHOICE TO REPLACE VIGNES. HOWEVER, CAMPANO MARTINEZ RETURNED TO POST WITH VIGNES STILL IN PLACE. EMBASSY SOUNDINGS AMONG SOURCES CLOSE TO CAMPANO MARTINEZ INDICATE THAT WHILE HE WAS HERE, HE WAS, IN FACT, APPROACHED BY PERON REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT, THOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT PERON SUGGESTED FOREIGN MINISTRY. SOURCES INDICATE CAMPANO MARTINEZ ADVISED PERON THAT HE WAS IN POOR HEALTH AND WOULD HAVE TO GIVE MATTER  
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VERY SERIOUS THOUGHT. IT MAY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS CONVER-

SATION THAT AMBASSADOR INFORMED UCR SOURCE THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE MINISTERIAL POST (SEE REF B). THIS DEMURRAL SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS LAST WORD.

3. RUMORS THAT CAMPANO MARTINEZ HAD COME BACK TO REPLACE VIGNES WERE OVERDRAWN. MOREOVER, VIGNES' POSITION DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF JUNE 12. THE LATTER CENTERED AROUND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES, NOT FOREIGN POLICY. NONETHELESS, THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT VIGNES' POSITION IS SECURE. THE EMBASSY SEES NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT HE IS IN ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER, BUT HE RECENTLY COMPLAINED PRIVATELY TO A WELL-CONNECTED NEWS SOURCE THAT HE HAD NO POLITICAL BASE AND THIS LEFT HIM OPEN TO SNIPING FROM ALL SIDES IF HE MADE THE SLIGHTESE MISSTEP. HE WENT ON TO COMMENT CANDIDLY THAT IN HIS ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH GELBARD AND LOPEZ REGA, HIS ONLY WEAPONS WERE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND PERON'S GOOD WILL. SO FAR, HE SAID, THESE HAD BEEN ENOUGH TO PROTECT HIM, BUT HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN OF THE FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: TO RETAIN PERON'S GOOD WILL, VIGNES MUST WALK A NARROW LINE. HE MUST CONTINUE TO PRODUCE FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES, SUCH AS THE ATLANTA MEETING, US LICENSES FOR CAR SALES TO CUBA, ETC, FOR WHICH HE HAS RECEIVED CREDIT. HE MUST NOT, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO OVERSHADOW PERON IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SO FAR, HE HAS PLAYED THE GAME EXTREMELY WELL AND SEEMS LIKELY TO STAY IN PLACE FOR TIME BEING. ANY SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC REVERSES OR SLIP IN DOMESTIC INFIGHTING, HOWEVER, COULD CUT GROUND FROM UNDER HIM AND LEAD TO HIS REPLACEMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, AR, (CAMPANO MARTINEZ, JOSE), (VIGNES, ALBERTO JUAN VICENTE),  
**To:** STATE  
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